

“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: August 7-8, 2009

Agenda Item 10: Implementation of Public Conduct Rules - **Update**

Prepared By: Paul Dahmer, Wildlife Area Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Presented By: Jennifer Quan, Lands Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

The number of users and types of recreation have dramatically increased on WDFW public lands. In addition to hunting, fishing, and watching wildlife, users are camping, snowmobiling, hiking, dog walking, hang-gliding, horseback riding, mountain biking, cross country skiing, film-making, geo-caching, and engaging in a variety of other recreational and commercial activities.

Following a two year public process which included communication with the Land Management Advisory Council and mailings to over 1400 individuals and organizations and completion of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process, the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a comprehensive public conduct rule package in December 2007. The rules are designed to 1) protect fish, wildlife, habitat, and other natural resources; 2) ensure public health and safety; 3) protect wildlife-related recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, and wildlife appreciation; 4) accommodate other outdoor recreation compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife; 5) establish expectations for public use of wildlife lands; and 6) consolidate WDFW land use rules under one WAC.

The draft WAC presented to the Commission in December 2007 included the following sections:

- **232-13-010 Introduction**
- **232-13-020 Purpose**
- **232-13-030 Definitions**
- **232-13-040 Aircraft**
- **232-13-050 Behavior and Conduct**
- **232-13-060 Camping**
- **232-13-070 Fires and Campfires**
- **232-13-080 Commercial Use or Activity**
- **232-12-090 Non Commercial Use or Activity**
- **232-13-100 Dumping and Sanitation**
- **232-13-110 Enforcement**
- **232-13-120 Erecting and Using Camps, Blinds, and Tree Stands**
- **232-13-130 Firearms and Target Practicing**
- **232-13-140 Fireworks**
- **232-12-150 Regulating Public Access**
- **232-13-160 Livestock**
- **232-13-170 Parking**
- **232-13-180 Pets**
- **232-13-190 Resource Removal**
- **232-13-200 Vehicle Use**
- **232-13-210 Penalties**

The Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted all sections of WAC 232-13 with the following exceptions: WAC 232-13-160 Livestock, 232-13-190 Resource Removal, and 232-13 200 Vehicle Use. All three of these issues remain governed by rules previously established (WACs 232-12-174, 232-12-177 and 232-12-251, respectively), and staff is recommending that no changes be made at this time. Lastly, the public conduct rule package included new rules on aircraft use and traffic control on Department lands; therefore, the Commission repealed the two previous rules (WAC 232-12-184 and WAC 232-12-187).

All adopted sections of WAC 232-13 were enacted in January 2008. Over the past year, information on the rules has been distributed on WDFW's website, in news releases, and in all hunting and fishing pamphlets. Maps of designated campgrounds identified in the WAC have been developed and posted on the Lands Website. Enforcement of the new rules was phased-in through 2008 with warnings generally issued rather than citations, except in the case of egregious violations. After a year of experience with the new rules in place, the Department feels that the rules are effective. The Department is currently in the process of developing signs to further inform the public and to support enforcement of the new rules.

An update will be provided regarding completed and ongoing communication and implementation of the new rules.

Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Recreational use management.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Significant public review and comments were considered in the development of the Public Conduct Rules.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

None, briefing only. This is a Commission request from the December 7-8, 2007 Commission meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlets
